

MICHIGAN STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICE PAPER RECYCLING PROGRAM 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Background

In 1988, the Michigan Legislature passed Public Act (PA) 411 mandating that all state offices recycle office paper. PA 411 was codified in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, to include the following directive to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ):



“Section 1650: (1). The department shall establish and implement a paper recycling system to recycle wastepaper products that are recyclable and for which there is an accessible and available market. The recycling system shall include the recyclable wastepaper products generated in the offices and other facilities of state departments and state agencies, the offices and other facilities of the legislature, and the judicial offices and other facilities within this state. The department may work with other state departments and hire private contractors to establish or implement all or a portion of the recycling system under this part.”

This report responds to this legislative directive and focuses on the information the departments have compiled on current recycling activity. This report is being submitted to the Governor, the Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the House, and the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, in accordance with this directive.

Market Analysis

This report addresses the contracts the state of Michigan has to collect, shred, and recycle sensitive documents from its offices around the state, as well as the one to collect all fiber (newsprint, corrugated containers, and mixed and white office paper) from Lansing area state government facilities.



In 2005, the cost of recycling state office paper in the Lansing area was \$136,292, resulting in the recycling of over 2.4 million pounds of fiber. In 2006, the cost was \$139,445, resulting in the recycling of almost 2.5 million pounds of fiber.

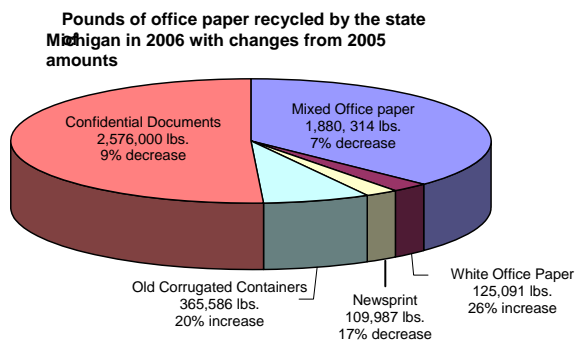
Staff Participation in Government Sponsored Recycling

The state government Office Paper Recycling Program (OPRP) contract serves 85 buildings in the greater Lansing area, in which over 12,500 state employees work. There is no system for measuring the amount of recycling available in over 1,000 state facilities outside of the Lansing area, in which approximately 42,000 state employees work.

Volume of Paper Recycled

State government buildings in the Lansing area are served by a paper recycling contract with Lansing-based, Friedland Industries. Confidential Document Destruction (CDD) of Toledo, Ohio, has handled the destruction and recycling of confidential papers since 2000.

This contract requires CDD to pick up paper at state facilities all over the Lower Peninsula. In 2005, it cost \$146,658 to collect, destroy, and recycle 2,832,779 pounds of confidential records. The cost for this service in 2006 was approximately \$150,000 for 2,576,000 pounds of confidential records.



Source: Friedland Industries and CDD collection figures for calendar year 2006.

State Office Paper Recycling Rate

Using figures provided by the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (MDMB) regarding the amount of office paper purchased and recycled by state government in 2006, the state office paper recycling rate was 38 percent¹.

Environmental Benefits

The following are potential environmental benefits resulting from the state government OPRP in 2006. These figures were generated using the National Recycling Coalition's environmental benefits calculator²:

- Avoided destruction of 44,366 trees;
- Reduced the generation of waterborne wastes by 11.7 tons;
- Lowered air emissions by 3,173.8 tons;
- Saved 31,013 million British Thermal Units of energy, this is equivalent to the amount of energy needed to power 295 typical United States households for one year; and
- Green House Gas reductions from recycling versus disposal, 2,876 metric tons of carbon equivalents.

¹ Recycling rates reported in the previous two years were based on incomplete figures regarding the amount of office paper purchased by state government. The reported recycling rates of 66 percent in 2004 and 80 percent in 2005 should not be quoted and will not be used to compare with current recycling rates.

² The National Recycling Coalition Environmental Benefits calculator uses information obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to calculate environmental benefits of recycling a variety of materials. The National Recycling Coalition is a non-profit membership organization composed of professional recyclers from businesses and governments across the United States.

Outreach Activities

Staff in the MDEQ and the MDMB are continually responding to requests and questions from agencies and staff about office paper recycling. The MDMB recycling Web site is available to staff at, http://www.michigan.gov/dmb/0,1607,7-150-9141_25043---,00.html. The MDEQ has a recycling Web site at, www.michigan.gov/deqrecycling, containing a variety of recycling information for businesses and residents in Michigan that is also available and referred to by staff.

Overall quantity of material being recycled has not changed significantly over the past year. Increasing efforts to pull more high value white office paper out of the mixed paper stream could reduce costs of the program. The outreach goal for the upcoming year will be to promote the recycling of more white office paper to make the recycling program more cost effective.